



MISSOURI. Conservationist

VOLUME 69, ISSUE 10, OCTOBER 2008 • SERVING NATURE & YOU

Fall Activities Close to Home

often hear from friends about their outdoor adventures in distant places—fishing or hunting in Canada or the Rocky Mountains and hiking in the Grand Canyon region are examples. This year, with the

spike in the price of gasoline, I have heard from several who chose to stay closer to home and experience the Missouri outdoors. And why not? Missouri is blessed with many great destinations for hunting, angling, wildlife watching and touring to enjoy the stunning and colorful autumn scenery.

The Missouri Department of Conservation is pleased to manage 863 conservation areas open throughout the year for the public's use and enjoyment. At some of the areas, we offer invitations to special public opportunities. One such event is the Rockwoods Nature Adventure at the Rockwoods CA on Oct. 4. This St. Louis County venue is close to home for more than a million people, so reservations are required! It is a great time to practice your outdoor skills, get help planning your next Missouri adventure outdoors and take a tour of historic Rockwoods CA.

Another example is the popular fall driving tour set for Oct. 19 at the Poosey CA in Livingston County, northwest of Chillicothe. This will be the 22nd year that the area roads have been opened to view spectacular fall colors.

Missouri abounds with special places—and indeed entire regions—where the autumn foliage can dazzle the eyes. The Henning CA near Branson, Caney Mountain CA near Gainesville, and Rocky CA near Winona are great examples. Hiking in or near one of Missouri's 184 natural areas is a great fall experience. Pickle Springs Natural Area, located east of Farmington in Ste. Genevieve County, has a special trail named "Trail Through Time" with many scenic views including sandstone cliffs, canyons and knobs. I must confess that seeing the fall

colors from the seat of a canoe while floating down an Ozark stream may be my absolute favorite.

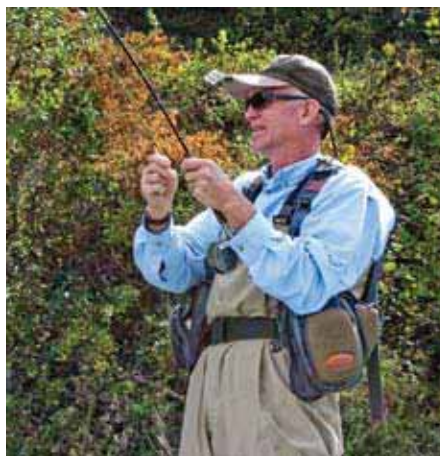
Other popular outdoor activities sponsored by the Department include more than 80 managed hunts for special dates at selected conservation areas and other public lands. Fishing in more than 900 public lakes and thousands of miles of rivers and streams in Missouri can be very good when the water temperatures cool in the fall.

Missouri's trout fishing is excellent in the fall. On Nov. 1, the winter catch-and-release trout fishing program begins with the stocking of 28 small public lakes, providing popular and very close to home trout fishing for anglers in Jackson, Kansas City, Kirksville, Mexico, St. Joseph, St. Louis, Sedalia and more. The Department stocks catchable-size trout in cooperation with city governments,

providing the opportunity for citizens to experience trout fishing without leaving town. On Nov. 14, the winter catch-and-release season begins in Missouri's four trout parks.

I hope one or more of these outdoor opportunities are near your home, but if not, please check the Department's Web site at www.MissouriConservation.org for conservation areas and other outdoor places near you. Experiences in nature are important to our quality of life, and in Missouri there are many options for a great time outdoors in special places just waiting for you. I hope to see you there!

John Hoskins, director











OUR MISSION: *To protect and manage the fish, forest and wildlife resources of the state; to serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities; and to provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy and learn about fish, forest and wildlife resources.*



Cover and left by David Stonner

NextGEN

This section reports on goals established in *The Next Generation of Conservation*. To read more about this plan, visit www.MissouriConservation.org/12843.

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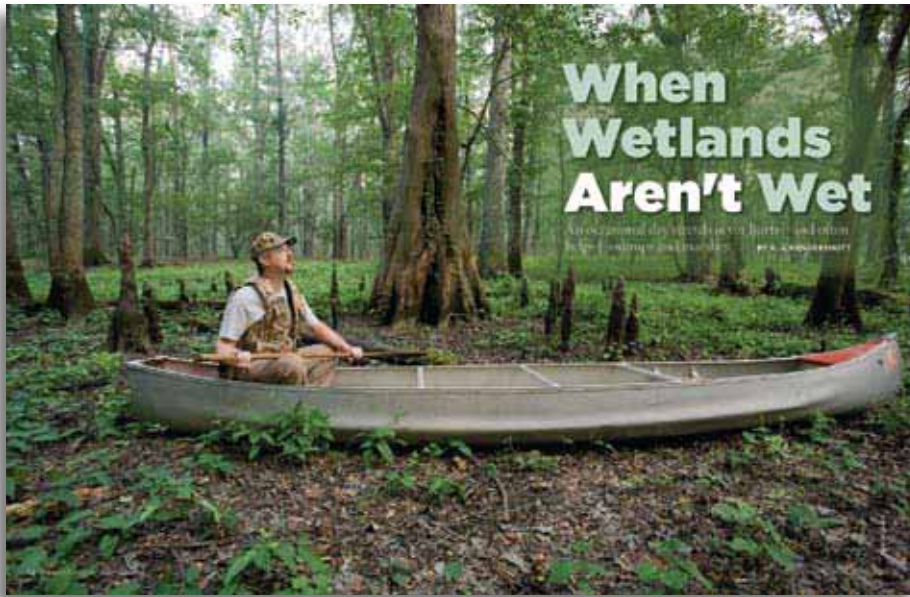
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QUIRKY CANOE

My 15-year-old daughter, Stephanie, noticed some errors in the photo [*When Wetlands Aren't Wet*; August]:

1) Since he is 'canoeing' by himself, and has no ballast (gear) in the canoe, he should be sitting in the front seat, facing the stern of the canoe—to be closer to the canoe's center of gravity, otherwise the bow would be very unstable and sticking up in the air. 2) He doesn't know how to hold a paddle. For paddling, his right hand should be over the end of the paddle, holding the grip. Even though he is not paddling and is relaxed, he wouldn't be holding the paddle in that manner, but his right hand would be gripping the paddle with his palm resting on the upper surface of the paddle's shaft, not gripping it from the bottom, as shown.

Nice article though, despite the errors.

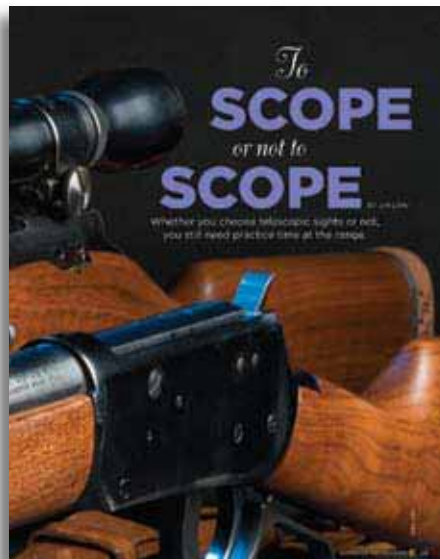
Bob and Stephanie Dye, via Internet

Editors' note: We appreciate the scrutiny you gave to our photo. Foremost, we were trying to create a visual pun of

sorts to catch our readers' attention. It appears that we caught your attention, but perhaps for the wrong reasons.

The person in the photo is actually an accomplished paddler. In fact, he made the paddle he is holding. In our experience, even accomplished paddlers will hold their paddles in different manners, but all seem to get the job done. And, as you mentioned, he is essentially in a relaxed position, which can result in any manner of hold.

Your points about his position in the canoe and the absence of ballast are valid,



but we were focused on creating an eye-catching photo. His position in the canoe has more to do with visually balancing the photo than anything else. Thanks for your compliment and comments. We will consider these observations in the future.

WHEN NOT TO SCOPE

I found Jim Low's article [*To Scope or Not to Scope*; August] very good and worth reading, especially to the novice. I have had the privilege of deer hunting for most of my adult life and, more recently, elk hunting in Colorado. We need more firearm instructional pieces (selection, care, safety, accessories and firearm-related hunting experiences) in your excellent magazine. As a long-time firearms safety and self defense (LTC) instructor, I must comment on proper scope hunting as applies to firearm safety.

Mr. Low points out, accurately, that the hunter is advantaged being able to better see if the target is "qualified" to take, as would be the case in many Missouri counties for buck deer, and definitely for any bull elk, at least in Colorado. This, of course, applies to when the hunter is "on target." However, I must point out a basic safety rule in the use of rifle mounted scopes: It is never safe, under any circumstance, to use the rifle scope to scan the fields and woods to see what's out there. A responsible and safe hunter will use binoculars, or a free-standing spotting scope to do this. Never the rifle scope.

I have left the field and changed hunting partners on at least one occasion because someone in the party scoffed his refusal to buy and use binoculars. I saw, through my glass, him looking straight at me through his scope, and I was staring into the barrel of a loaded 30-06. Binoculars and/or spotting scope are basic tools these days for all big game hunters. Good ones are available at reasonable prices.

Jim Johnston, Kirkwood

Editors' note: The author agrees with Mr. Johnston and regrets that his comment appeared to advocate "glassing" with a scope. Though not mentioned, he had already identified his target, as well as a safe shooting lane.

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The *Missouri Conservationist* (ISSN 0026-6515) is the official monthly publication of the Missouri Department of Conservation, 2901 West Truman Boulevard, Jefferson City, MO (Mailing address: PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102.) Subscription free to adult Missouri residents; out of state \$7 per year; out of country \$10 per year. Notification of address change must include both old and new address (send mailing label with the subscriber number on it) with 60-day notice. Preferred periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, Mo., and at additional entry offices. Postmaster: Send correspondence to Circulation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180. Phone: 573-522-4115, ext. 3856 or 3249. Copyright © 2008 by the Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

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Printed with soy ink



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Phone: 573-522-4115, ext. 3856 or 3249
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E-mail: Subscriptions@mdc.mo.gov
Conservationist online services: Subscribe to the magazine, update your mailing address, or sign up to receive an e-mail when the latest issue is available online at www.MissouriConservation.org/15287
Cost of subscriptions: Free to Missouri households
Out of State \$7 per year
Out of Country \$10 per year

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Reader Photo STICKY FINGERS

Thirteen-year-old Adam Borron took this picture of a gray tree frog with his mom's brand new camera. It was a birthday present to her, but Adam decided to try it out. Adam loves nature and critters of all sizes and has developed a fondness for photographing them. He is taking a photography class this year in school, in hopes of developing his skills further. Adam says that "patience is the key to capturing shots of wildlife at its finest."

This month check out our featured Web pages, or go online anytime to learn more about conservation at www.MissouriConservation.org.



FALL HUNTING

www.MissouriConservation.org/7442

Get information on upcoming deer and turkey seasons as well as information on habitat. Find out about drawings, reservations and managed hunts around the state.



FALL COLOR REPORTS

www.MissouriConservation.org/8422

Check out our fall color information to find scenic driving routes and the current status of forests around the state.



HUNTER EDUCATION

www.MissouriConservation.org/8821

Hunter education provides a foundation in hunting safety and ethics. This training has helped reduce Missouri's hunting accident rate by 70 percent.



ASK THE OMBUDSMAN

Q ■ My hunting party failed to get drawn for a ■ managed deer hunt. There were six of us, and all but one had a preference point due to not being chosen last year. I understand a group uses the average, but do you round off the total or use the fraction? I'm disappointed a group with at least five preference points didn't get a hunt.

A: I'm afraid you may have misunderstood how preference points are applied. This was the first season for preference points to be part of the drawing process. Individual hunters and group applications are treated the same way. Consequently, no individual or party could have more than one preference point this year. A group of six (maximum allowed) with a preference point for each hunter has a total of one preference point, as does an individual applicant with one preference point. In your case, with five of six having a point, your average would actually be less than one preference point, but our system would round up your average to the next whole number—one—the maximum available. Had only two of your party had a preference point, your average would have fallen below half of a point, and you would not have received any preference point consideration.

Next season, if your same group applies, you'll have an average of 1.83 preference points, which will round up to two points. Some hunts have steep odds for selection. While not every hunt is held annually, you might be able to study the odds by looking at managed deer hunt statistics at www.MissouriConservation.org/7454.

Ombudsman Ken Drenon will respond to your questions, suggestions or complaints concerning Department of Conservation programs. Write him at PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, call him at 573-522-4115, ext. 3848, or e-mail him at Ken.Drenon@mdc.mo.gov.

on the
TV

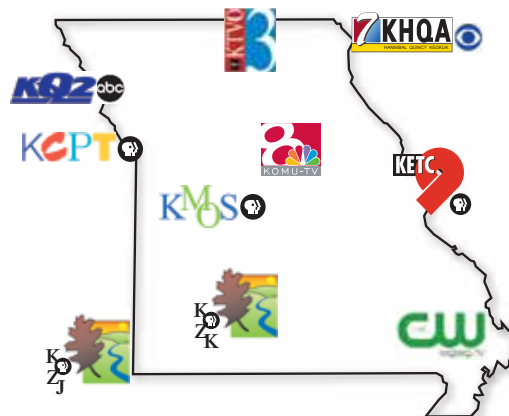
For additional show information and video clips,
be sure to visit

www.MissouriConservation.org/8726.

Check local listings for times in your area.



Television
the way
nature
intended!





Species of Concern **Pallid Sturgeon**



Common name: Pallid Sturgeon
Scientific names: *Scaphirhynchus albus*
Range: Missouri and Mississippi rivers
Classification: Critically imperiled
To learn more about endangered species: www.MissouriConservation.org/8227

THESE PREHISTORIC-LOOKING fish were contemporaries of the dinosaurs, but human alterations in their big-river habitat have brought them near extinction. Juvenile pallid sturgeons need shallow areas with little current to survive. Much of this habitat has been eliminated through channelizing and damming of rivers. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Conservation Department, recently released several thousand pallid sturgeon raised at Conservation Department hatcheries into the Missouri River. The fish were released at several sites between Ponca, Neb., and the mouth of the Grand River. Pallid sturgeon can live more than 40 years and grow to 80 pounds. In Missouri, they seldom exceed 10 pounds. Their smaller relatives, shovelnose sturgeon, seldom exceed 30 inches and 5 pounds. Sturgeons' mouths are on the bottoms of their heads. They act like vacuum cleaners, sucking up insects, fish and other food from the river bottom. For more information, visit www.MissouriConservation.org/7244

PHOTO: JIM RATHER; ART: MARK RAITHEL

Frogs Are the Stuff of Myths

You can help save these living legends.

Frogs' and toads' ability to transform from tadpoles to adults always has fascinated people. It led to fairy tales about damsels turning frogs into princes with a kiss and association with the pseudoscience of alchemy. Superstition even awards them the power to transform people who touch them by causing warts. Toxins secreted by many frogs' and toads' skin adds to their aura of power and mystery. For fascinating and factual information about amphibians, visit www.MissouriConservation.org/8263, or amphibianark.org/.



Hunter Bags Far-Flying Duck

Banded under a wandering star

Freddie Scott of LaGrange, Ga., was excited when he shot a banded pintail duck last January near Ruleville, Miss. He was amazed when he read the inscription on the band: "Kankyochō-Tokyo Japan." He thought it must be a hoax, but the Bird Banding Laboratory at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's wildlife research laboratory in Patuxent, Md., confirmed the band's authenticity. Japanese Bird Banding Society member Ryuhei Honma banded the bird in northwestern Japan on Feb. 16, 2000. The bird was at least a year old when banded, making it nearly 9 when it fell to Scott's gun more than 6,700 miles from the banding site. Wild pintails have an average life expectancy of about 3 years. For more information about bird banding, visit www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/.





Fabulous Fabius

Fall fishing action can be great.

Northeast Missouri streams have some excellent largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing, and none is more fun to fish than the Fabius (pronounced like "Fabby") River in Clark, Knox, Lewis, Marion, Scotland and Shelby counties. This stream lends itself to canoes and kayaks and wade-fishing. In addition to bass, you might boat walleye, sauger, white bass and flathead and channel catfish. Public accesses include Soulard, Sunrise, Blackhawk, Dunn Ford, White Oak Bend and Tolona, plus Deer Ridge Conservation Area. Use the online Conservation Atlas (www.MissouriConservation.org/2930) for directions to these accesses.



Missouri, Highways 63, 87 north of Boonville and almost any road in Camden, Miller, Maries, Osage and Gasconade counties provide beautiful fall scenery. For fall color updates as the season progresses, visit www.MissouriConservation.org/8422.

See Fall Foliage Now!

Drive these scenic routes to enjoy the beauty of autumn.

Fall color usually peaks around Oct. 15 in Missouri, though trees in the northern and southern parts of the state might change colors a week earlier or later. Good fall color routes in the Kansas City area include Highways 7 and 210. Highways 45 and 224 in northwest Missouri are excellent places to see fall colors. Highways 6, 79 and 61 see some of the best fall color in the northeast Missouri and St. Louis areas. Scenic drives in southeastern Missouri include Highways 67 and 72 in Madison and Bollinger counties. In the Ozarks, try Highways 19, 160 and 181, and in southwest Missouri visit Highways 65, 76 and 54. In central

Trail Guide



TRAIL ADVENTURE IN JEFFERSON CITY



AUTUMN'S INCOMPARABLE beauty is on display indoors and out this month at Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City. On sunny days, hike through prairie, savanna, glade, marsh, shady oak-

hickory forest and stream-side landscapes. The .3-mile, wheelchair-accessible Naturescape Trail shows how you can use native plants for home landscaping. The Raccoon Run is .9 miles in length and is the longest and most diverse trail. Two additional miles of hilly, natural-surface hiking trails offer a chance to get away from it all in the heart of the Capitol city. In wet weather, move indoors to the nature center and explore exhibits, aquariums and displays of live reptiles and amphibians that illustrate Missouri's diverse natural landscapes and fascinating life. You also can relax in the spacious wildlife viewing area or curl up with a good book in the nature library.

Area name: Runge Conservation Nature Center

Trails: 2.4 miles – Moss Rock Trace, Raccoon Run, Bluestem Ridge, Towering Oak & Naturescape

Unique features: Big fun inside and out

For more information: Call 573-526-5544 or visit www.MissouriConservation.org/a3600



TAKING ACTION

Kansas City WildLands—To Battle!

Group featured: Kansas City WildLands is a coalition of resource professionals, private conservation organizations and conservation-minded corporations and citizens.

Group mission: To conserve, protect and restore remnant natural communities of the Kansas City region by involving people in the stewardship of the land.

RELATIVELY UNDISTURBED PRAIRIE, glade, savanna and forest habitats survive in and enrich the urban landscape of Kansas City. The WildLands coalition is dedicated to maintaining them for our current and future generations.

The coalition holds restoration workdays throughout the year, enlisting volunteers to assist with planting native wildflower seedlings and trees, removing invasive plants, clearing trash and other activities. They also produce the *WildLands Newsletter*, filled with informative and entertaining articles on local conservation issues and events.

WildLands is currently seeking volunteers for their largest workday of the year, To Battle!, on Nov. 1, from 9 a.m. to noon. The event will focus on removing invasive exotic honeysuckle and takes place at four separate locations: Blue River Glades, two sites along the Blue River Parkway, Isley Park Woods, and Hidden Valley. For more information, to register for a workday, or to get on the WildLands mailing list, contact Linda Lehrbaum, Kansas City WildLands coordinator, at 816-561-1061, ext. 116, or e-mail Linda@bridgingthegap.org. The newsletter and more is also available online at www.kcwildlands.org.

Support Share the Harvest

Not a hunter? You can help by sharing time or funding.

Approximately 5,569 hunters donated 260,908 pounds of venison to Share the Harvest last year. The program wouldn't exist without these gracious gifts from the hunting community. However, volunteers are just as critical to the success of this effort, supplying funding, promotional support and manpower to help distribute the bounty.

Volunteers have strengthened Share the Harvest by distributing information and answering questions, donating time to local food shelf organizations, and holding fundraisers through charitable groups to help cover venison processing costs. Many individuals have also made direct donations to the program.

If your nonprofit club or organization would like to coordinate a Share the Harvest program in your area, contact your local conservation agent (see Page 3 for regional phone numbers), or call the Conservation Department's main office at 573-751-4115.

Donations may also be made directly to the program through the Conservation Federation by contacting Dave Murphy, executive director, at 800-575-2322, in person or by mail at CFM/Share The Harvest, 728 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101, or via e-mail at dmurphy@confedmo.org. All donations are tax deductible.





Venison Precautions

Agencies investigating lead contamination from bullets.

Resource agencies in several Midwest states, including Missouri, are reminding hunters that venison from deer harvested by firearms might contain lead powder or fragments. This education effort comes after tests showed that some ground venison donated to food pantries in North Dakota and Minnesota contained lead fragments.

North Dakota researchers believe the lead came from the bullets that killed the animals. Lead dust and fragments could contaminate meat when a bullet strikes flesh or bone.

Studies are being performed to determine the effect of various types of bullets. Those designed to explode or “mushroom” on impact, for example, might increase the amount and extent of lead deposition. Copper bullets are considered a safe alternative for hunters. As a precaution, hunters should always trim away and discard flesh surrounding the wound channel from any bullet.

Iowa researchers are comparing blood lead levels of people who consume venison regularly with a control group to determine whether eating venison could increase the risk of lead poisoning.

State Veterinarian Taylor Woods, DVM, said “We have never had an illness or case of lead poisoning by consumers eating deer, quail or pheasant, but we recommend that

meat be trimmed around the wound channel to get rid of more than 98 percent of the lead.”

The Conservation Department is working with other states, as well as other



Missouri state agencies, to inform people of any risks involved in eating venison.

Quail Hunting

Scout it Out



Name: Lamine River Conservation Area

Location: Cooper and Morgan counties. The main tract is 1 mile east of Otterville on Route A, or take Highway 50 to the Lamine River.

For more info: www.MissouriConservation.org/a8304



THINK OF ALL the places a quail could hide in nearly 6,000 acres of prime habitat. Think how much fun it would be to try to find them! When you visit Lamine River Conservation Area, near Otterville, about midway between Sedalia and Tipton, look for quail in upland fields with shrubby edges or draws and near where permittee farmers have left part

of the crop in the fields. Adjacent idle fields—especially those overseeded with legumes—also are prime hunting grounds. They provide nesting and brood cover and attract bugs for quail to eat.

Highway 50 cuts through this huge area, and many other county roads provide access. In addition, the Department provides 20 parking areas. Camping is allowed at four of them, although no facilities are available.

The area is named for the river called “la mine,” French for “the mine.” The name dates back to the late 1700s when lead was discovered nearby. The area also provides good deer hunting opportunities. Be alert for property boundary signs so you don’t trespass. For more information, go to the Web site shown above, or call area manager Kent Korthas at 660-530-5500, ext. 230.



True Colors

Why do leaves flash brilliantly before tumbling to the forest floor?

It's tempting to believe that trees just want to look good one last time before winter, but leaf color change isn't deliberate and has no benefit to trees or leaves. Instead, it's just a pleasant (for people!) by-product of chemical processes occurring within the cells of leaves.

Shortening day length in the fall reduces and eventually halts the production of green chlorophyll, which is necessary for leaf cells to produce sugars (or tree food) from sunlight. The decline of chlorophyll in the leaves reveals other pigments, the yellow, orange and brown carotenoids and the reddish anthocyanins. Not all trees have anthocyanins in their leaves, but those that do might vary in the intensity of leaf color based on weather. A combination of cool nights and sunny days in early fall produces and locks more of the red pigments in the leaves. Wet or dry conditions during the year also influence autumn colors.



Not all trees change color at the same time. Sassafras and sumac typically start the display in mid-September, then dogwood and blackgum, followed by the leaves of oaks, hickories, maples and ashes. In Missouri, fall color usually peaks in mid-October. Because day length triggers the process, peak color gradually rolls across Missouri from north to south.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER



A Swoop of Chimney Swifts

CHIMNEY SWIFTS WERE around before there were chimneys. They would roost or build their nests on the rough inner surfaces of hollow trees. When chimneys became available, however, the birds took advantage of them. Chimney swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) became numerous in cities and other areas where few snag trees existed. Now, chimneys are the birds' primary nesting sites and have become important to the survival of the species.

When not in chimneys, these tiny birds with a big wingspan are almost always in the air. One study estimated a chimney swift might fly 500 miles a day during nesting season. They feed by scooping insects from the air, and they are able to court and even mate aloft. They bathe by skimming the water surface and drink the same way.

Although they don't nest in colonies, chimney swifts congregate in early fall. You can often see flocks (or swoops) of them circling prime roost sites, such as factory chimneys, before dusk. Their flight is erratic and batlike, but their cigar-shaped bodies and swept-back wings distinguish them. Not surprisingly, a chimney swift's plumage is sooty gray.

Their grapple-like feet don't allow them to perch like most birds, so they cling to the inside walls of a chimney through the night. They exit like popcorn in the morning. To escape winter, these intrepid flyers wing their way to Peru.



A Cure for Zebra Mussels?

Prevention remains the best control

A California company has landed a \$500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a “green” control for zebra mussels. Marrone Organic Innovations Inc., working through the New York State Museum, will use the money to develop a microbe-based pesticide. Zebra mussels cause millions of dollars of damage annually and adversely affect native animals. Although control of existing zebra mussel infestations might be possible one day, prevention of infestations by cleaning and drying boats and equipment remain the most economical control measures. For more information, visit nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0750549.



held the soil in place. On steep cutbanks where willow staking was not practical, they placed cedar trees with earth anchors to break the force of the stream current and encourage plant growth and natural soil deposition. Both the willow plantings and the cedar-tree revetments used free materials available on-site. Once erosion was at bay, Conservation Department workers and Stream Team volunteers planted more than 7,000 sycamore, cottonwood, green ash, maple, walnut and sweet gum trees, creating wooded borders along LaBarque Creek, guaranteeing that erosion would not return. For more information, visit www.MissouriConservation.org/7258.

LaBarque Creek Demo Area

You can stop stream-bank erosion.

If you are losing land to stream-bank erosion, consider paying a visit to Hilda J. Young Conservation Area in Jefferson County.

There, along the banks of LaBarque Creek, the Conservation Department and Missouri Stream Team have created a real-life demonstration of inexpensive stream-bank erosion practices that work. They started by cutting 1,300 willow stakes 3 feet long and planting them on eroding slopes. These grew into willow thickets that

Stream Team



Arnold Stream Team



THIS GROUP CONDUCTS two major stream cleanups annually, removing more than 2,000 discarded tires, cars, trucks, major appliances and other trash from the eight streams it has adopted. They often

help other stream teams with special challenges. In 2007 they received a grant to buy video surveillance gear to catch illegal dumpers. “When there is a large item in the river, the Arnold Stream Team is there to take it apart and haul it off,” says Fisheries Management Biologist Mark VanPatten. “I honestly believe there is nothing too big for them to handle. One time when they were winching something very large out of the river, they burned out a winch. They didn’t give up. They just took a break long enough to buy a bigger, more powerful winch. When it comes to a battle between the trash and Stream Team 211, 211 will win.”

Stream Team Number: 211

Date formed: Feb. 28, 1991

Location: Meramec River & Rock, Mattese, Huzzah, Apple, Blair, Hazel & Courtois creeks

For more info about Stream Teams: www.mostreamteam.org



Our Glorious Forests

PICKLE SPRINGS NA



Size of area: 180 acres

Location: Travel on Highway 32 northeast of Farmington 5 miles, then east on Route AA for 1.7 miles, and north on Dorlac Road for .25 mile.

Highlights: This forested tract is a Designated Natural Area featuring sandstone knobs, arches, canyons and cliffs.

Call for more info: 573-290-5730



WITH ITS TWO-MILE “Trail Through Time,” Pickle Springs Natural Area is a favorite with hikers. Fall is an especially good time for families to enjoy a self-guided nature hike through this unusual forest landscape. Children will love the creek, natural spring, abundant plants and many scenic views of sandstone cliffs, canyons, knobs and other “hoodoos”—fantastic rock formations sculpted by wind and water over millions of years. Wooden signs throughout the area bear these features’ whimsical names, such as Double Arch, Terrapin Rock and Owl’s Den Bluff. Although this beautiful National Natural Landmark is great fun for people, it also serves as prime habitat for many of Missouri’s native forest plants and animals. Expect to see partridge berry, azalea, white oak, shortleaf pine, dogwood, serviceberry and cinnamon fern. Deer, squirrels and turkey are also abundant. This diverse natural area is truly one of the most glorious forests in Missouri.

State Logger Award

Larry Young takes prize for outstanding work.

“Excellent utilization of all material and careful consideration for aesthetics” ranked high among the reasons

MDC gave Lawrence W. Young of Winona the prized State Logger of the Year Award for 2008. If your logging operation meets these criteria and you are current with the Professional Timber Harvesters training, contact a professional forester and have him or her look at your work. Your operation may be nominated for recognition in the near future. To learn more about the State Logger Award, go to www.MissouriConservation.org/18617.



We All Live in a Forest

Fall tourism generates millions in Missouri.

Fall brings more than a wealth of colors to Missouri’s landscape. The season of splendor also yields millions in rural tourism. The Missouri Department of Tourism estimates that in 2007 roughly 700,000 people traveled in Missouri during the months of September and October. These travelers reported rural sightseeing as an activity on their trip and spent approximately \$44 million dollars. These figures mean that all Missourians have an economic stake in the health and beauty of our trees and forests.

Whether you manage a few landscape trees or a family forest, you have access to the latest tree and forest health information and practices. Just direct your browser to www.MissouriConservation.org/7392. This site can help you make the most of your landscape trees and forest resources.





Make Escape Cover for Quail

After shrubs go dormant, spray sod underneath.

Native shrub thickets such as blackberry, wild plum and shrub dogwood can be made usable again for bobwhite quail by simply eradicating tall fescue or other sod-forming grass from underneath. In the fall, after a heavy freeze and the leaves have dropped from the shrub, spray the sod-infested area with glyphosate-based herbicide. Make sure to spray the area around the existing shrub thicket, too, since shrubs will quickly grow into the surrounding area.



Sign Up Now for CP33

Improve next year's yields and bottom line.

If your yields thinned out along the hedgerows this fall, consider signing up for CP33. Research shows that this Conservation Reserve Program practice, also known as "Habitat Buffers," improves yields along field margins. To prove it, scientists compared ears of corn from the same farm, the same corn variety and the same inputs. The ear from the CP33 side was three times as large as the one from the timber-shaded side. Incentives include \$100 per acre signup bonus, up to 90 percent cost-share, and an annual rental payment, depending on soil type. 2008 data show that incentives combined with increased crop yields more than pay for CP33 on three out of four farms. To see



if your farm qualifies for CP33, contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

CP22 "a good deal" for farmers

On the Ground



Members of the Crawford County Cattlemen's Association (from left) David Kopling, Bobby Baker, Phil Mullen, Floyd Kitchen, Delbert Mullen and Robert Copling. All have installed similar waterers as the one pictured here.

"NOW THAT THE creeks are fenced back, we're starting to see more quail." More wildlife and better habitat are among the many reasons Floyd Kitchen lists for applying Conservation Practice 22 on his Crawford County farm. He and his neighbors took advantage of this federal Conservation Reserve Program practice, also known as "Riparian Forest Buffer," to install wells, water lines and thousands of feet of fence. Now Floyd and his neighbors, all of whom practice management intensive grazing, are also getting better use of their upland acres. "We didn't have water on the ridges," Floyd says. "Our cattle had to come down to the creek." CP22 pays up to 90 percent cost-share on all labor and materials necessary to protect forest streams. "It's all a good deal," Floyd says. To find out if your farm is eligible for CP22, contact your local Farm Service Agency office.



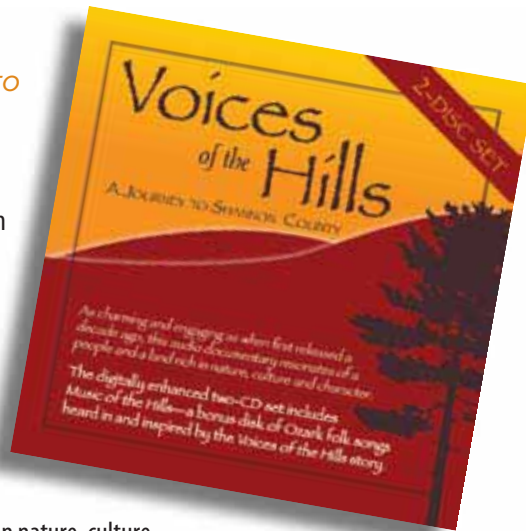
Voices of the Hills

Two-CD set is a journey into Shannon County's history.

An anthropologist recalls his humble education in a one-room country schoolhouse. . . . True love blossoms at a religious revival. . . . A nation expands westward on railroad ties felled of Ozark pines. . . . A land is transformed by immigration, logging, tourism and war.

As charming and engaging as when it was first released a decade ago, *Voices of the Hills* recalls a people and a land rich in nature, culture and character. The digitally enhanced two-CD set includes *Music of the Hills*—a bonus disk of Ozark folk songs heard in and inspired by the *Voices of the Hills* story. Writer Joel Vance and musicians Cathy Barton, Dave Para, Mike Fraser and Bob Cunningham weave an enchanting tale of the hills, hollows, rivers and caves that are uniquely Shannon County.

This item is available for \$9 plus shipping and handling and sales tax (where applicable). To order, call toll-free 877-521-8632 or visit www.mdcNatureShop.com.



Conservation Seeds

Hefty educator packet sows big ideas about nature.

When young children learn to love nature, it improves the health and well-being of both. This observation, made by Richard Louv in his online article, *The Nature-Child Reunion*, forms the basis of our early childhood curriculum packet, *Conservation Seeds*. Use it to guide students aged 3 to 7 through their discovery and exploration of nature. Thematic lesson plans organized according to season feature age-appropriate activities that emphasize feelings and a sense of wonder. To order the packet, write to MDC, "Conservation Seeds," PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102 or e-mail pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov.

NATURE ACTIVITY



NATURE ACTIVITY: NOPPADOL PAOTHONG

Springfield CNC 20th Anniversary Celebration



THE SPRINGFIELD Conservation Nature Center is celebrating 20 years of Serving Nature and You during their anniversary celebration this month. Since opening in 1988, nearly 2.1 million visitors have toured the facility

to learn about conservation and discover nature through first-hand experiences. More than 4 million visitors have walked the nearly three miles of trails that meander through a variety of Ozarks habitats, and 640,000 have attended programs.

The 20th anniversary festivities begin with an open house on Friday, Oct. 3, at 6 p.m. Conservation Department Education Consultant and musician Michael Fraser and his Shortleaf Band will perform at 7 and 8 p.m. Festivities continue on Sunday, Oct. 5, with the annual Primitive Skills Day from 1 to 5 p.m. See demonstrations in flint knapping, bow-and-arrow construction, beadwork and fire making from some of the Ozarks' best primitive skills specialists.

For a complete listing of events, visit www.MissouriConservation.org/2360

When: Friday, Oct. 3, 6 to 9 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 5, 1 to 5 p.m.

Where: 4600 S. Chrisman Ave, Springfield

Call for more info: 417-888-4237



KEEP FROZEN
GROUND VENISON
Missouri
Share the Harvest
Program



KEEP FROZEN
GROUND VENISON
Missouri
Share the Harvest
Program



KEEP FROZEN
GROUND VENISON
Missouri
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Share THE Harvest

This popular program puts food on the plates of those who need it. *by Bill Kohne*

In the early 1990s, archery hunters around Columbia, Mo., came up with the outstanding idea of “sharing” some of the deer meat they harvested with needy families in the area. This was the start of what became the Share the Harvest Program in Missouri.

The first year, Share the Harvest resulted in the charitable donation of about 3,000 pounds of venison. Last year, the amount was more than 260,000 pounds of mostly ground venison.

That is a lot of burger!

We had to overcome a lot of obstacles to develop the state-wide program that now involves 118 deer processors, as well as thousands of hunters and volunteers. The Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) took a strong leadership role in working with the departments of Conservation and Agriculture, as well as charitable organizations and food pantries, sportsman’s groups and private individuals, to efficiently put the donations of hunters into the hands of the needy.

How It Works

The Share the Harvest Program now makes it easy for hunters to donate venison to charity. A hunter harvests a deer and takes it to one of the participating processors listed in the *Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting* pamphlet. These are available where permits are sold or at any Conservation Department office or online at www.mdc.mo.gov/cgi-bin/share/harvest.cgi.

The hunter may then make a partial donation by simply telling the processor to take a certain amount of meat (2

pounds, for example) from his deer for Share the Harvest. The processor sets aside that meat and combines it with other donations before grinding it up and placing it into 1-pound packages for freezing. When the hunter picks up his deer meat, he pays the standard processing costs.

If the hunter elects to donate the entire deer, \$35 of the processing fees are provided by a statewide fund administered by the CFM. Originally this fund was supplied solely by Shelter Insurance. As the demands for this fund grew, the CFM, the Missouri Department of Conservation, Shelter Insurance, Bass Pro Shop, and Whitetails Unlimited became statewide sponsors.

In addition, many processors offer a reduction from their normal processing rate when a whole deer is donated to Share the Harvest as their way of contributing to area people in need.

Money from local funds may be available to further reduce the processing fee. Safari Club International, Wal-Mart, White River Electrical Co-Op and others also have raised funds to support their specific local programs.

The result is that in many locations whole deer donations can be processed at no cost to hunters. Find out what level of funding is available in your area by calling local processors listed in the *Deer and Turkey Hunting* pamphlet.

A Program of Cooperation

Although Share the Harvest simplifies the process of hunters donating meat to the needy, the program’s underpinnings require multiple organizations working in concert with the program’s cosponsors, the Missouri Department

of Conservation and the Conservation Federation of Missouri.

Each local program requires three cooperating components: a processor, a coordinating organization and a distributing organization. Deer processors must be licensed and must be inspected by health department officials to determine that the deer meat is being handled in a sanitary manner.

The charitable organization, which may be a local service club or other community oriented group, promotes the program locally, keeps records of deer donations and transfers venison from the processor to the distributing organization. The latter actually gives the finished frozen packages of venison to needy families and individuals. Good examples of distributing organizations are food pantries, the St. Vincent DePaul society and church groups.

The *Wildlife Code* of Missouri allows only the taker of wildlife to give it away. However, an exception has been created to allow that commercially processed deer meat may be donated to not-for-profit charitable organizations under guidelines established by the director of the Missouri Department of Conservation.

In addition, all organizations helping with the program must be approved annually by the local conservation agent to assure accountability.

VENISON DONATIONS		
Year	Number of Hunters	Pounds Donated
1994	Unknown	3,200
1995	Unknown	8,200
1996	1,679	20,497
1997	1,467	29,323
1998	1,370	42,509
1999	1,712	46,090
2000	1,338	49,260
2001	1,623	76,171
2002	1,826	96,595
2003	3,675	177,435
2004	5,161	275,374
2005	5,091	267,541
2006	6,584	322,469
2007	5,569	260,908



DAVID STONNER

Volunteers at The Good Shepherd Pantry in Linn organize meals for the needy, including Share the Harvest venison.

Management Tool

The Share the Harvest Program is extremely useful in the Conservation Department's management of Missouri's deer population.

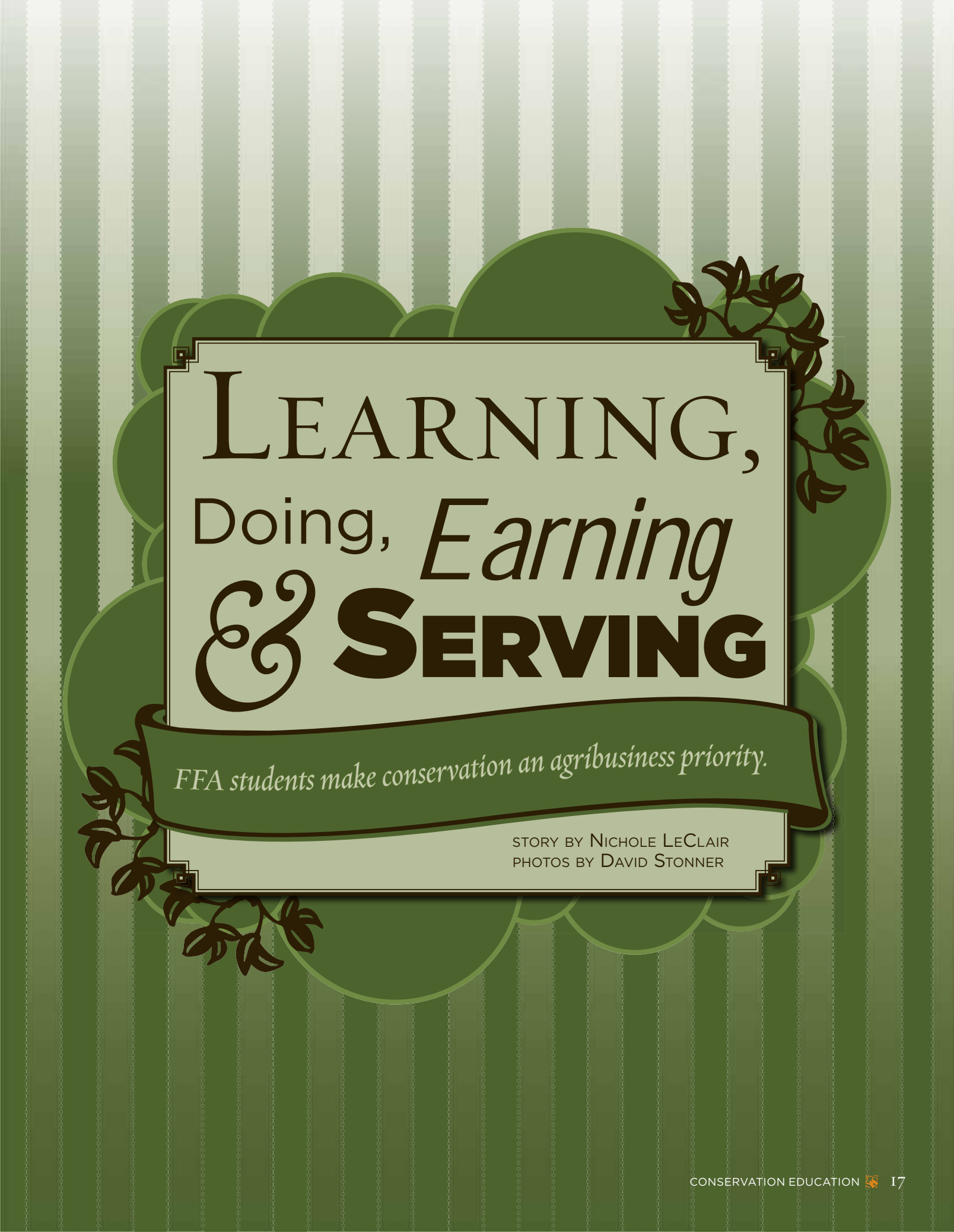
The Department works with the Conservation Federation to target areas with high deer numbers by increasing local processing-cost incentives and Share the Harvest promotional campaigns. This results in an increased harvest in areas where deer populations are high.

Urban parts of the state are an excellent example. A special hunt for antlerless deer only is held early in the fall before the regular firearms deer season in selected counties where deer numbers need to be reduced. Thanks to the help of local sponsors, all processing costs for deer taken during the Urban Counties Portion of the Firearms Deer season are covered. Hunters pay only for permits and equipment.

Help Share the Harvest

If you are a charitable organization and would like to be involved as a coordinating organization or a distributing organization, or would like to help raise funds locally for the program, please contact your local conservation agent for approval and details. Conservation agents also are the contact for deer processors that would like to participate in the program.

Deer hunters who would like to donate a portion of their take or an entire deer can refer to the Share the Harvest listing in the *Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting* pamphlet to find participating processors. Outdoor clubs or organizations, businesses, or individuals who wish to help fund the program locally or statewide can contact their conservation agent or contact the Conservation Federation of Missouri at 573-634-2322, www.confedmo.org. ▲



LEARNING, Doing, *Earning* & **SERVING**

FFA students make conservation an agribusiness priority.

STORY BY NICHOLE LeCLAIR
PHOTOS BY DAVID STONNER

C

olton Chambers seems ordinary enough. A soft-spoken 18-year-old in a buck print T-shirt and worn camouflage hat, he is sorting through photos of trapping trips and taxidermy mounts, wildlife and the prom, which he attended with his girlfriend, Hayley, the pretty, dark-haired girl sitting beside us in the workshed. Stylish as any city girl, she's excitedly telling me about their competitiveness on fishing and hunting outings. Then we flip through clipping after clipping of newsprint, detailing Colton's awards. Yet he is more interested in discussing a recent loon sighting, and how the outdoor activities he loves benefit wildlife management, than the competitions he has won.

I should have expected it really; FFA members are never ordinary. Nor is their understanding of conservation issues.

Being an FFA member requires dedication and ambition. The group's motto is, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve." As such, expectations go beyond strong performance in the business of agriculture; the organization promotes excellence in scholarship, building interpersonal skills through teamwork and social activities, volunteerism, healthy lifestyles, and wise use of natural resources. The Department of Conservation takes pride in assisting the organization in the last.

"FFA is really important to conservation," explained Veronica Feilner, the Department's agriculture education coordinator. "In the long term, agriculture cannot be successful without conservation, and conservation cannot be successful without responsible agriculture. If we don't conserve our resources and use them wisely, they won't be available for either agriculture or wildlife." The Department supports FFA's efforts by developing programs and materials for teachers, assisting with annual FFA leadership camps, creating exhibits and displays for conference and career shows and by awarding the United Sportsmen League Wildlife Conservation Grant to FFA chapters. FFA supports conservation by promoting good land stewardship and respect for the resources we all depend on.

There are few partnerships more critical or mutually beneficial than the one between agriculture and conservation, and FFA not only merges these two interests, but benefits a third as well—education. "The additional resources and opportunities that FFA brings to schools helps students develop valuable study, life and professional skills," explains Veronica, "as well as improving agricultural literacy in a society often removed from the sources of its food, fiber and natural resources."

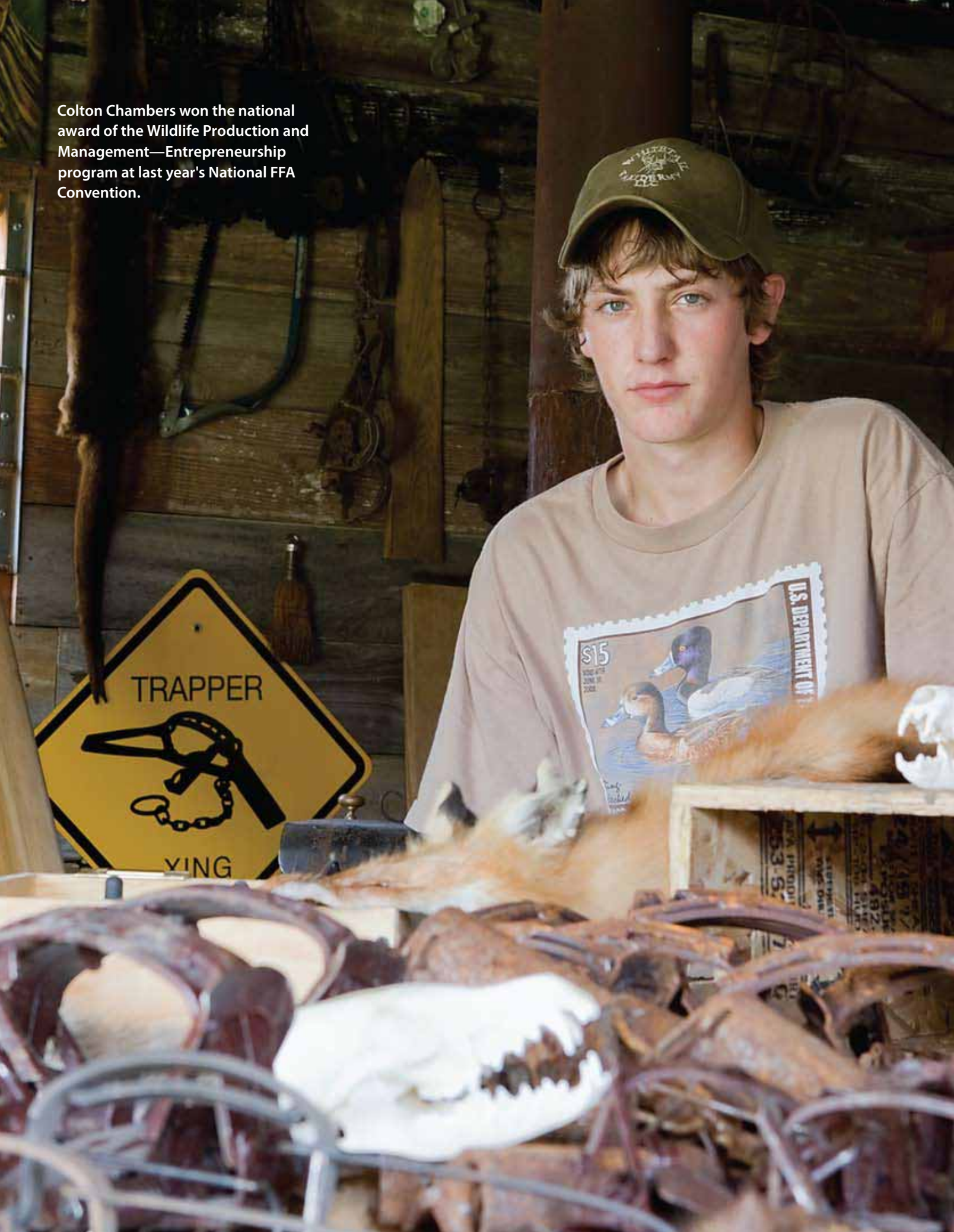
While conservation education is woven throughout the FFA curriculum, students may also choose to learn advanced career skills in a conservation or environment-related field. One of the proficiency areas offered is Wildlife Production and Management, Colton's specialty.

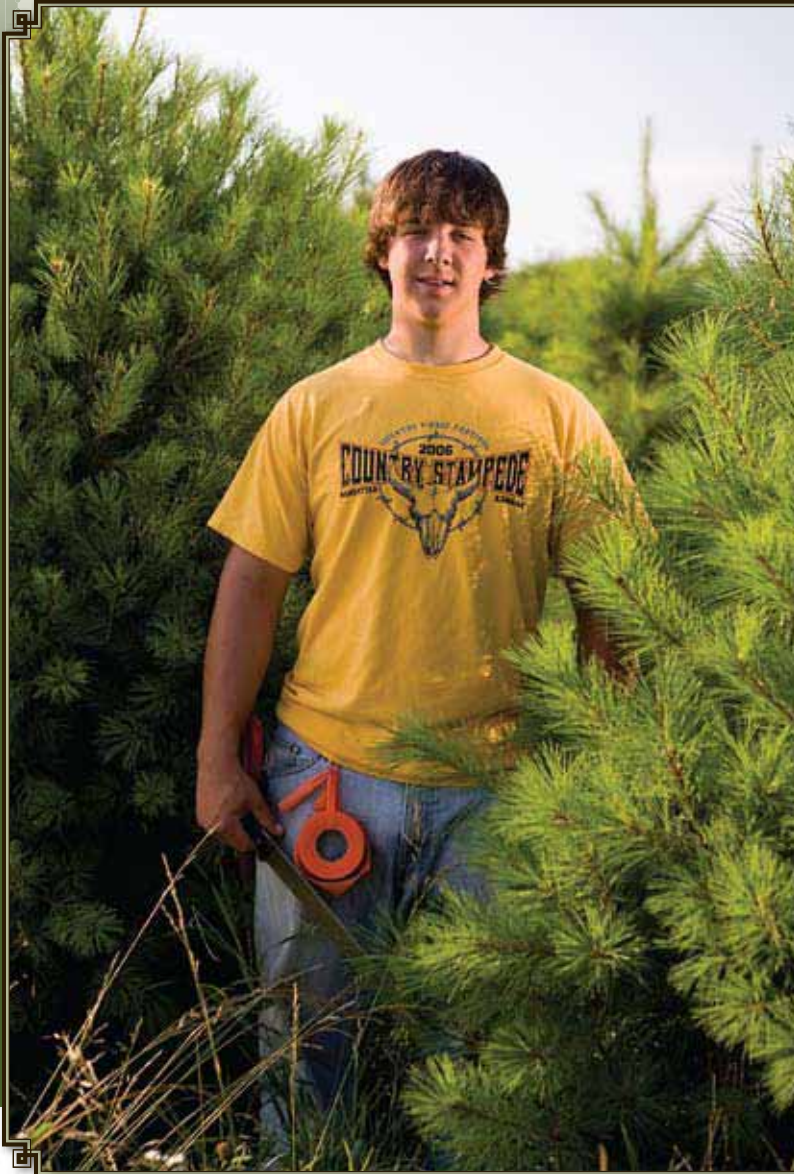
Last October, at the 80th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Colton was

FFA: A Good Foundation

The National FFA Organization is far more than an extracurricular activity. Founded in 1928, the organization holds a federal charter, and two of its top three executives are employed by the U.S. Department of Education. All public school students in grades 7 to 12 who are enrolled in agriculture courses can join FFA, which helps them apply classroom instruction to hands-on opportunities, such as starting their own business or working for an established company. Agriculture teachers become advisors to local FFA chapters and offer guidance on projects, competitions, and business and communication skills. As of 2007, there were 500,823 FFA members in 7,358 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Last year, the organization awarded \$1.9 million in scholarships.

Colton Chambers won the national award of the Wildlife Production and Management—Entrepreneurship program at last year's National FFA Convention.





ETHAN TATE

Brunswick FFA Chapter
Forest Management and Products
Proficiency —*State Award Winner*

Ethan began working at Johnson's Christmas Tree Farm in Triplett the summer prior to his eighth-grade year. At the farm, his duties included cutting, trimming, painting, drilling, shaking and netting trees. He also spent time driving tractors and mowing. But most importantly, says Ethan, working at the farm taught him a lot about the forest industry.

Ethan became interested in FFA because his brother had joined and recommended it. "He told me about all the opportunities available, so I checked it out. I felt like it suited me." It apparently did, as he became his chapter's vice-president.

While balancing schoolwork with FFA commitments can be challenging at times, Ethan says the skills he learns help him in the classroom as well. He has had to improve his math and science abilities to be competitive in the program. "But I like having to know this stuff," says Ethan, "and that I need to participate and push myself." He also enjoys the variety of activities and competitions that are available to him. Last year, he participated on his chapter's Soils Team.

Over the summer, Ethan worked at the Land Learning Foundation in Triplett, an organization dedicated to maintaining habitat and outdoor sporting opportunities. Now in his junior year, he is looking forward to more challenges through FFA, and of his experience so far he says, "I'm having an awesome time."

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"I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH
THERE WAS TO LEARN BEFORE I
STARTED ... I READ EVERYTHING I
CAN FIND, WATCH VIDEOS AND GO TO
TRAPPING CONVENTIONS."

—Colton Chambers, 2007 national award winner
of the Wildlife and Production and Management—
Entrepreneurship program
.....

named the national award winner of the Wildlife Production and Management—Entrepreneurship program. As a member of the North Andrews FFA Chapter, he started a successful trapping business that he continues to develop.

"Trapping is necessary to keep the population balanced," says Colton, as he leads the way to an outbuilding that serves as his workshop. "If you do it right, trapping can lead to healthier animals repopulating the next year. And for nuisance animals, it's one of the best ways to manage them."

The inside of his workshop is a testament to Colton's dedication to do it right. Well-

HANNAH BOYER

Slater FFA Chapter
Outdoor Recreation Proficiency
—State Award Winner

Since the summer of 2005, Hannah has been working in outdoor recreation at Arrow Rock State Historic Site. Her duties have included coordinating nature and historical programs for children and adults, creating advertising materials and participating in demonstrations on subjects ranging from flint knapping to bugs and butterflies.

In addition to her work at Arrow Rock, Hannah was president of her FFA chapter, and has also served as area reporter and competed on meats judging, soils and farm management teams.

Although she grew up in a farming family, Hannah says, “I never realized how big a role agriculture played in everything until I joined FFA.”

Though she plans to major in psychology when she enters college this fall, Hannah says, “I wouldn’t take back being involved with FFA for anything. I’ve gained good learning and life skills, and that applies to just about everything. Also, the competitiveness of the program meant I really had to have my stuff together and be confident in my abilities. It was fun, too.” Hannah says FFA will still have a place in her future, regardless of her final career choice.

Asked if other students should consider FFA, even if they don’t plan to work in agriculture someday, Hannah says, “Absolutely. If any little part of them wants to do it, they should. It’s really worthwhile.”



maintained and ordered by size, hundreds of traps line the ceiling and walls. His materials are carefully organized, the workbenches clear of debris. The slightest hint of skunk scent hangs in the space, but there is no other evidence of the messy detail work he undertakes here. Refrigerators for skins share space with typical signs of teenage habitation—a television, a microwave, a road-style sign collection and the occasional poster of a pretty girl—but the room is as organized as an army barracks. This is obviously more business space than hangout.

When I inquire about a tidy assortment of animal skulls on a shelf, Colton explains that

understanding animal biology and behavior is critical to his trapping success. “I never realized how much there was to learn before I started,” he says. “I read everything I can find, watch videos and go to trapping conventions.”

Though he grew up hunting and fishing, and still enjoys those activities, Colton is relatively new to trapping. His brother became interested a few years back and piqued his interest. Now the brothers and their father have taken up trapping, in addition to their other outdoor pursuits. He has also become interested in taxidermy, and his mounts can be found at every turn, both in the workshop and throughout his family’s home.



TAYLOR HUHMANN

Tipton FFA Chapter
Environmental Science and
Natural Resources Management
Proficiency —*State Award Winner*

Making compost isn't too difficult, and she enjoys the work, but, "It is kind of dirty and dusty sometimes," says Taylor, laughing. "I wish I could do something about that."

Taylor's ash and compost business, Ozark Gold, began with the help of her father and uncle who raised turkeys. They were looking for a way to turn turkey mortality back into profit. Taylor uses ingredients such as pencil shavings, old hay, wood chips and sawdust to increase the effectiveness of her compost, and continually looks for new ways to improve the quality of her product. She has recently started marketing the compost to local businesses and area farmers.

Taylor has a long view for the business, and though she is still in her senior year, she has already planned how she will manage when she leaves for college. "I can come home on the weekends, it's really easy to keep going," she says. And, after all, her product can stand to sit awhile.

Though she credits her family for the support they gave her in developing the business, Taylor says that FFA helped teach her good work ethics and confidence. "Our ag teacher always encouraged us to do our best," says Taylor. "It made me want to do something with myself and try harder." It also developed her understanding of conservation issues. "You've got to take care of the world around you. Agriculture and conservation goals are similar: Promote the well-being of your environment."

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"IN THE LONG TERM, AGRICULTURE
CANNOT BE SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT
CONSERVATION, AND CONSERVATION
CANNOT BE SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT
RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURE."

—Veronica Feilner,
MDC agriculture education coordinator

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Colton turned his passion into a business, and then a national award, with the guidance of his agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, Edward Windsor. He traps both for skins to sell and to remove nuisance animals, averaging around 250 animals a year. The money he earns is re-invested in the business.

"It was quite a bit of work, but I didn't mind," says Colton about starting his business and, later, applying for the national proficiency award. "I don't have as much interest in livestock. Wildlife management is really what got me involved."

When asked what gave his project the edge in the competition, Colton says, "I think it was

ANDREW CLIFTON

Perryville FFA Chapter
Wildlife Management

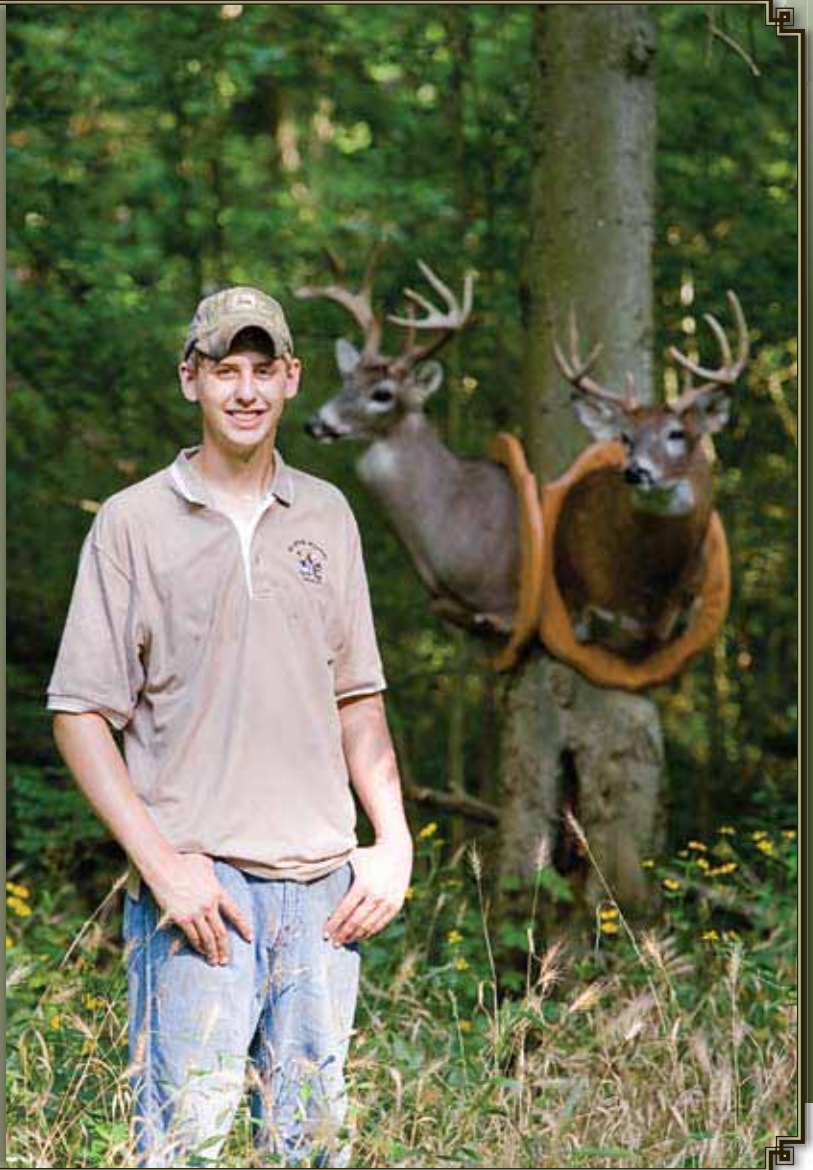
Entrepreneurship Proficiency
—2nd Place National Award Winner

Because of his strong family farming background and his interest in wildlife, Andrew knew that planning for conservation was important. So he developed a conservation plan for himself that included establishing food plots for deer. In the course of his project, he learned about harvesting trees, palatability of plants, mineral and supplemental feeding techniques, and the best ways to manage food plots.

Andrew says he's gotten a lot of support throughout the process, and he tries to reciprocate by helping others establish similar practices. "I'd like to start my own land management business someday," he says, "but for now I just try to encourage others to manage their land and wildlife as I do."

Juggling schoolwork and FFA, as well as participating in Conservation Youth Corps, Quail Academy and Conservation Honors, didn't seem to faze Andrew. "It wasn't stressful at all," he insists. "FFA helped me branch out and learn to talk to people, and the awards and praise from the advisors let me know I was doing good work." He adds, "You have to do everything you can to have the most fun and to get the most out of it."

Now that he's graduated, Andrew plans to attend college, majoring in either wildlife biology or forestry. He might even decide to work for the Conservation Department. "This is my main passion," he says, "and what's better than doing something you love with your life?"



because I kept getting better; I gained more land, I made more money, I caught more animals. It just kept growing." But he credits the preparation and resources his advisor gave him as the ultimate key to his success.

"Mr. Windsor set up all the paperwork and helped me figure it out," says Colton. "He taught me how to write down goals, how to get equipment. He lets me trap on his land. He doesn't take much credit for it, but he helped me out a lot. He really pushed me." And when Colton got on stage at the National FFA Convention to give a speech on his project, he admits he was thankful for his advisor once again, though he winces in apparent embarrassment as he explains, "He

made me write the speech, and two months before the convention he made me practice it every class in front of the other students so they could offer suggestions and ask questions." Getting up in front of the approximately 55,000 attendees was still a little stressful, he allows, but at least he knew his speech was solid.

Colton plans to continue his business, and hopes to one day become a professional trapper, taxidermist and hunting guide. He hasn't made a decision on college as yet, but he is sure that he will continue his involvement with FFA and wildlife management. Whatever his future pursuits, says Colton, his interest in the outdoors and conservation "is for life." ▲





Missouri's OCTOBER TURKEY SEASON

The month-long season gives you plenty of
time to tag a turkey. BY MARK GOODWIN

When walking through the woods during fall turkey season, it is a good idea to wear at least an orange cap. If you are carrying a harvested turkey, attach an orange patch to the back of the turkey as well.

Late one afternoon last October, I sat in full camouflage with my back against a large black oak and a shotgun across my lap. My hope? To tag a turkey. Behind me and to the left, I heard the faint drone of a two-cycle engine. The sound grew louder. In seconds a four-wheeler bounced into view. I recognized the driver.

"Hey!" I yelled as he drove by on a logging road, 20 yards away.

The driver turned my way, came to a quick halt, and cut the engine.

"I didn't know you were in here," he said. "You turkey hunting?"

"Yes," I replied.

"I love spring turkey hunting," the fellow answered. "But I don't fall turkey hunt—too much like target practice."

"Target practice?" I thought to myself. "We must not be hunting the same turkeys."

CHALLENGE

In fall, any turkey is legal game. Typically, hens and their young make up the bulk of the fall population, so you are more likely to tag one of them. That might seem easier, but many of those hens have outwitted predators for several years, and the young turkeys have incredible vision and reflexes.

Hunting turkeys, spring or fall, involves the same keys to success: locating turkeys; knowing where to set up to call; being patient; knowing when and when not to call; knowing when and when not to move; and shooting straight. To consistently tag turkeys, anytime, you have to do many things right.

This time of year, hens usually are running in flocks with their young, often up to 30 birds in all. Gobblers are flocked together in groups of up to 12 or so. One proven way to hunt turkeys in the fall is to locate one of these flocks, rush in and scatter the birds in different directions, then set up close to where you scattered the birds and call them back—taking advantage of the turkeys' strong flocking instinct.

You've got to get close to the birds for an effective scatter. If you see the birds from 100 yards away or more and run at them, they will likely run or fly off together and have no reason to come back to your calls. You've got to get within 50 yards of a flock for a good scatter. That takes experience and woodsmanship.



SAFETY

All turkeys are legal game in October. A hunter walking through the timber making realistic turkey calls sounds just like what the hunter around the next draw is hoping to shoot—a turkey. If the caller on the move is in full camouflage, the hunt could end tragically.

Hunter-orange prevents accidents in which a hunter is mistaken for game. When up and moving in the turkey woods, always wear a hunter-orange cap to let other hunters know you are not a turkey. When you set up to call, stow the orange hat and put on your camo hat, face net and gloves. If you bag a turkey, wear your hunter-orange cap—and an orange vest if you have one—as you carry the bird out of the woods.



DAVID STONER

Say you attempt to scatter a flock of 20 turkeys, hens and their young. First, you have to spot them before they spot you. A good pair of binoculars and knowing how to use terrain to hide your approach helps.



DAVID STONER

Always wear a hunter-orange cap when moving through the woods. When you are ready to set up to call, remove the orange hat, stow it in your turkey-hunting vest and put on your camo hat, face net and gloves.

It's almost necessary for you to spot the turkeys before they spot you. A good pair of binoculars and knowing how to use terrain to hide your approach helps. Even so, getting close enough for a good scatter without being seen by any of those sharp turkey eyes is not only tough and challenging, it can be impossible.

Sometimes hope is your best tactic. For example, if you spot a flock of turkeys in the middle of a large harvested grain field and there are no terrain features that will hide your approach, you just have to wait and hope the flock moves toward the edge of the field, where you can scatter them.

EXCITEMENT

The action that follows successfully scattering a fall flock of turkeys can be as thrilling as having a spring tom gobbling, strutting and drumming as it works into your calls. Let's say you scatter a large flock, and the hens and their young fly off in all directions—which is already pretty exciting.

You immediately sit down, and within 30 minutes the forest comes alive with the “kee-kees” of young birds. You call, get an immediate answer and face the bird with your gun on your knee. Then another turkey calls directly behind you. Which bird will work in first? Who knows?

You remain facing the first bird, and the one behind you comes in. You can't see it, but its calls and the crunch of leaves lets you know it's within shotgun range. You're not facing the right way, however. You feel your heart beating in your neck as the bird gets closer and closer.

Finally, craning your eyes to the left as far as possible, you see the turkey standing five yards away, neck stretched and wary. Even though you haven't moved, and are in camo head to toe, the turkey sees you as something out of place and walks off.

Then an old hen in the bunch starts yelping as does another one. The young birds that were responding to your calls now respond to the hens. The hens gather up their brood and the woods falls silent. You peel off your face mask and just shake your head. That doesn't sound like target practice to me.

Reading articles can make you a better turkey hunter, but you have to be able to successfully

Get out and HUNT. There's no substitute for EXPERIENCE.

TWO-DAY TURKEY HUNTING PLAN

Scout before hunting to learn where turkeys are feeding in the evening and where they tend to roost. Pick a quiet late afternoon and enter the timber making as little ruckus as possible. Call sparingly to turkeys as they travel to roost. If you fail to call in turkeys, listen carefully. You should be able to hear wing beats as turkeys fly to roost. When the turkeys are in the trees, walk into the area and scatter them. Often they fly in all directions.

In the fading light, find a good place to call from at the roost site and then return in the morning. The turkeys, even gobblers, often call and reassemble quickly first thing in the morning.

Hunting turkeys, spring or fall, involves many keys to success: locating turkeys; knowing where to set up to call; being patient; knowing when and when not to move; and shooting straight.



DAVID STONNER

apply what you read. In others words, get out and hunt. There's no substitute for experience.

Fall is the perfect time to gain experience. This is one of the special joys of fall turkey season. October offers crisp mornings and pleasant midday temperatures. Hardwoods flush with brilliant oranges; reds and yellows please the eye. Even if you don't hear or see a turkey, sitting in the woods on a beautiful fall day is a reward in itself.

The season is long, and you can hunt all day or even after work if you have a nearby hunting spot. Don't forget to use your time in the woods to scout for game. While listening for turkeys calling from the roost at dawn, for example,

you might hear quail whistling and get a bead on covey locations. While walking through the woods, you might notice a pond that wood ducks are visiting or run across some buck rubs and scrapes.

October is a busy month for many hunters. Spreading fall turkey season over the entire month of October, and allowing hunters to kill their season limit of two birds in one day, enables hunters to enjoy fall turkey hunting without having to sacrifice their other favorite fall pursuits. The all-of-October season provides more opportunity for hunters and makes the best hunting month of the year even better. ▲

If you are going to run at a flock to attempt a scatter, you've got to get within 50 yards or closer. That takes experience and woodsmanship.



TURKEY FOR THE TABLE

One of the greatest rewards of fall turkey hunting is the food you harvest. There is not a wild creature in Missouri that makes a better main course. You may at first be disappointed at the amount of meat in a juvenile hen turkey compared to what you get from a mature gobbler, but the meat is tender and succulent. Young hens weigh 6 to 8 pounds, and jakes weigh up to 12 pounds. Either provides enough breast meat to feed a family of four or five for a meal.

One way to get more meat out of a young bird is to make use of the bird's thighs and legs. This simple recipe converts any tough turkey meat into good eating.

1. Cut the thighs and legs off the turkey, then cut the thighs from the legs.
2. Put the thighs and legs in a slow cooker, cover with three cans of cream of chicken soup and three cans of milk and cook on low for eight hours.
3. Remove legs and thighs from crock pot and drain. Let meat cool and remove from bones and tendons. Tear into small strips.
4. Prepare two packets of chicken gravy per directions.
5. Stir meat into gravy and heat.

Spoon the meat-rich gravy over mashed potatoes and serve with corn, green beans, biscuits and pumpkin pie for a delicious meal.



Hunting and Fishing Calendar

FISHING

	OPEN	CLOSE
Black Bass (certain Ozark streams, see the <i>Wildlife Code</i>)	5/24/08	2/28/09
impoundments and other streams year-round		
Bullfrogs and Green Frogs	Sunset	Midnight
	6/30/08	10/31/08
Gigging Nongame Fish	9/15/08	1/31/09
Trout Parks	3/1/08	10/31/08

HUNTING

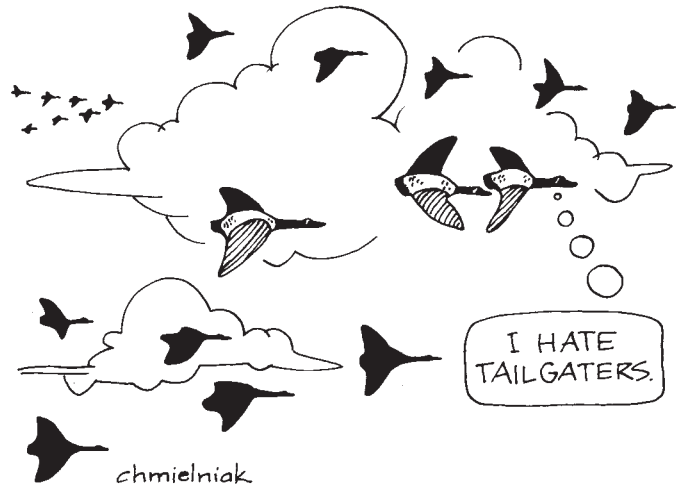
	OPEN	CLOSE
Coyotes	5/12/08	3/31/09
Crow	11/1/08	3/3/09
Deer		
Archery	9/15/08	11/14/08
	11/26/08	1/15/09
Firearms		
Urban	10/3/08	10/6/08
Youth	11/1/08	11/2/08
	1/3/09	1/4/09
November	11/15/08	11/25/08
Muzzleloader	11/28/08	12/7/08
Antlerless	12/13/08	12/21/08
Dove	9/1/08	11/9/08
Furbearers	11/15/08	1/31/09
Groundhog	5/12/08	12/15/08
Pheasants		
North Zone	11/1/08	1/15/09
South Zone	12/1/08	12/12/08
Youth (north zone only)	10/25/08	10/26/08
Quail	11/1/08	1/15/09
Youth (statewide)	10/25/08	10/26/08
Rabbits	10/1/08	2/15/09
Ruffed Grouse	10/15/08	1/15/09
Sora and Virginia Rails	9/1/08	11/9/08
Squirrels	5/24/08	2/15/09
Turkey		
Archery	9/15/08	11/14/08
	11/26/08	1/15/09
Firearms	10/1/08	10/31/08
Wilson's (common) Snipe	9/1/08	12/16/08
Woodcock	10/15/08	11/28/08

TRAPPING

	OPEN	CLOSE
Beaver and Nutria	11/15/08	3/31/09
Furbearers	11/15/08	1/31/09
Otters and Muskrats	11/15/08	see <i>Wildlife Code</i>

For complete information about seasons, limits, methods and restrictions, consult the *Wildlife Code* and the current summaries of *Missouri Hunting and Trapping Regulations* and *Missouri Fishing Regulations*, the *Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information*, the *Waterfowl Hunting Digest* and the *Migratory Bird Hunting Digest*. For more information visit www.MissouriConservation.org/8707 or permit vendors.

The Department of Conservation's computerized point-of-sale system allows you to purchase or replace your permits through local vendors or by phone. The toll-free number is 800-392-4115. Allow 10 days for delivery of telephone purchases. To purchase permits online go to www.wildlifelicenses.com/mo/.



Contributors



MARK GOODWIN is an avid turkey hunter who has enjoyed the sport for nearly 30 years. He retired from teaching last spring and says he may hunt only mature gobblers this fall. But then again, October offers great fishing. Tagging the first two turkeys that work into range would leave more time for floating Ozark streams. . . .

Recently retired after 34 years with the Protection Division, BILL KOHNE served as an agent and a supervisor in the former East Central region. His last position as protection programs coordinator included Share the Harvest. He is now enjoying the outdoors in the Sullivan area and quality time with his wife and daughter.



While NICHOLE LECLAIR was impressed by the accomplishments of FFA members, she was inspired by their positive outlook and love of learning. When not pestering teenage dynamos for interviews, she enjoys playing outside, spoiling her animals, and experimenting in her kitchen. She's the managing editor of the *Conservationist*.

TIME CAPSULE

October 1978

Let the Chips Fall was written by Joel M. Vance about wood burning stoves. The woodstove business was booming in '78 and provided a good alternative to manufactured gas, fuel oil or Reddy Kilowatt for home heating. Vance advised that

the investment would pay off in a few years, but cautioned that, while in the beginning of fall people love to use their chainsaws to cut down trees, by the middle of cold winter they often no longer want to go out to cut wood for their stoves. Having a wood stove can be costly if you have to buy all of your wood. You will usually require "three to five cords of cut and split wood" to burn in your woodstove.

—Contributed by the Circulation staff



AGENT NOTES

Regulations are vital to protecting and enhancing fish resources.

CONSERVATION AGENTS SOMETIMES have to face people who strongly second-guess the wisdom of certain regulations. I remember fierce opposition when the Conservation Department instituted a 9-inch length limit for crappie on Truman and Pomme de Terre lakes. Two years later, after people saw how the new regulation improved fishing, many of the same anglers who complained wanted to know if we could increase the length limit to 10 inches on these lakes.

In Missouri, channel catfish, flathead catfish and blue catfish are considered game fish. That means that angling pressure for these species is high enough that their harvest must be regulated to protect and enhance the fishery.

Some folks, however, believe they are justified in ignoring state catfish regulations because methods that are illegal in Missouri may be lawful in another state. Some people brag about catching fish illegally, which is like bragging about stealing.

Maybe a better understanding of fish biology might persuade people to stop breaking the law, or it might persuade someone who knows about illegal catfishing activity to report it. Our catfish regulations are the result of years of study of catfish behavior and reproduction. They also take into account numerous surveys of angler sentiment. They are designed to protect and improve catfishing in Missouri, but they are only effective if people abide by them.

Report wildlife violations by calling Operation Game Thief at 800-392-1111. Include the number on your phone's contacts list so it remains handy.

Robert P. Vader is the conservation agent for Hickory County, which is in the Southwest region. If you would like to contact the agent for your county, phone your regional Conservation office listed on Page 3.



behind the CODE

Authorization removes barrier to recruiting new hunters.

BY TOM Cwynar

People become hunters in stages or steps, and in the beginning, those steps can loom large. They need a gun, some woodsmanship, and, of course, a permit, just to start hunting. And before they could purchase that permit, they had to successfully complete a Hunter Education Course.

All this just to try a sport to see if they might like it.

An Apprentice Hunter Authorization, which became effective March 1, allows many people a less demanding entry into the sport of hunting. The authorization makes it possible for people at least 16 years old to purchase firearms hunting permits without having earned a hunter education certificate. The authorization, which costs \$10, may only be purchased for two permit years. A permit year extends from March 1 through the end of February.

Apprentice hunters must hunt in the immediate presence of a licensed hunter at least 21 years old, and that hunter must have in his or her possession a valid hunter education certificate card.

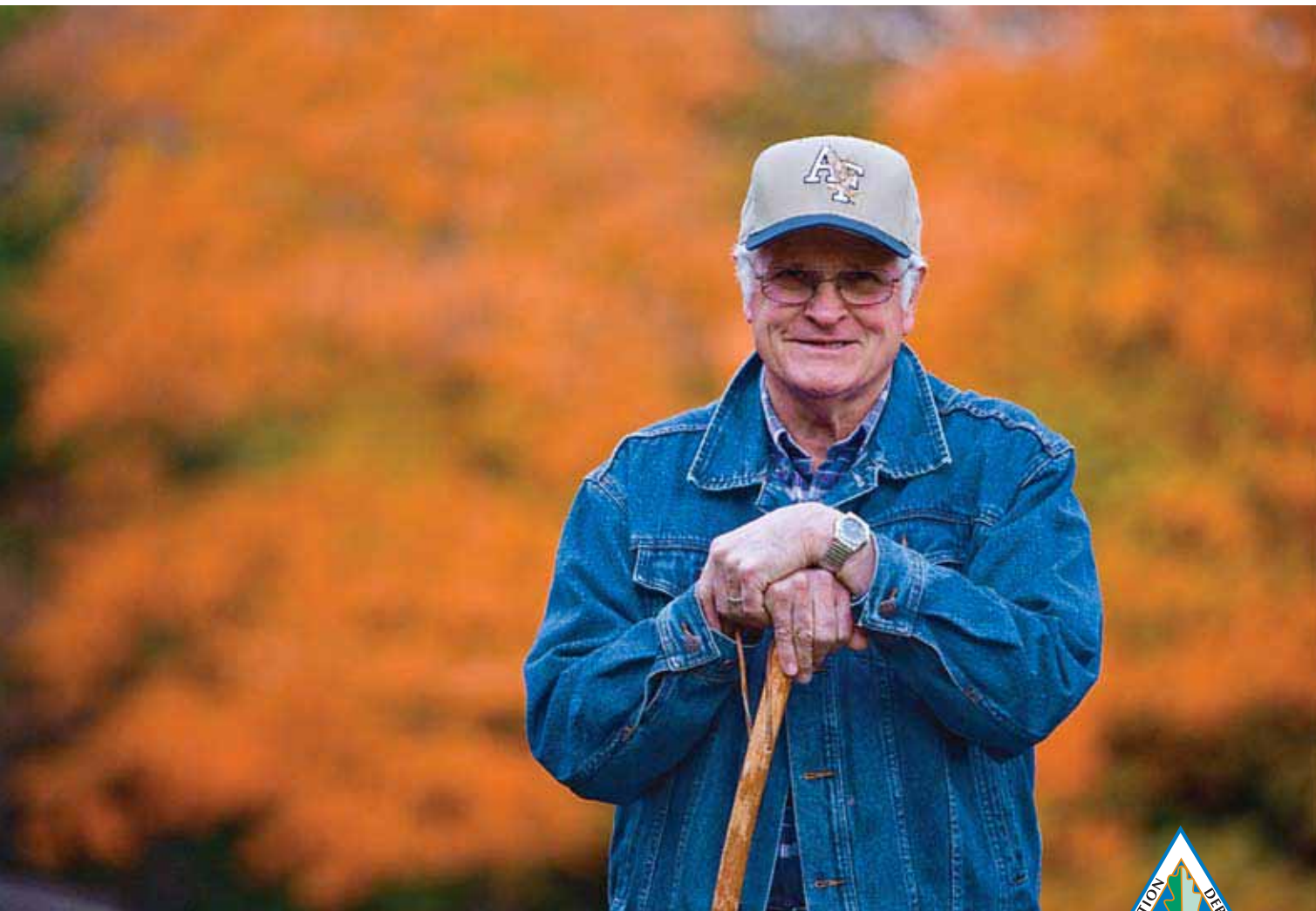
The requirement to hunt with a hunter education certified adult helps ensure a safer hunt. It also encourages the kind of mentoring or teaching that new hunters need to properly participate in the sport.

Youth seasons for deer and turkey have encouraged many youngsters to become avid hunters. Now the Apprentice Hunter Authorization makes it possible for dedicated hunters to introduce adult friends or family to the thrills of hunting.



“I AM CONSERVATION”

Ed Tamerius of Hannibal likes to get out and hike almost every day. He likes to hike forested areas as much as possible, so he will often visit either Steyermark (Julian) Woods Conservation Area or Ray (J Thad) Memorial Wildlife Area, which are near his home. “I love being in the woods,” said Tamerius. “I love the solitude and being away from the hustle and bustle.” Ed has been retired for almost nine years. “You can’t beat fall for a nice hike, but every season has something special about it. I really enjoy seeing wildlife, and it is seldom that you go on a hike that you don’t run into some wildlife of some sort.” To learn more about conservation activities, visit www.MissouriConservation.org—PHOTO BY DAVID STONNER



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www.MissouriConservation.org/15287

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Missouri households*